

**A NOTEWORTHY AURORA.**

The following interesting observations of an aurora have been communicated by Mr. Douglas Manning, of Black River, N. Y.:

"A beautiful auroral display occurred here on October 10, about a half hour before the rise of a nearly full moon, which of course drowned it almost entirely. It appeared in the form of a drapery, with streamers which reached to a point overhead. The light was intense at times, and was continually changing in color, yellow predominating, red being the least. What impressed me most was the apparently tremendous speed of the light, which would start from one end of the curtain and reach the other limit in a few seconds. To me (but of course I am only a layman) it looked as though some

great combustion was taking place at a certain height, just as one will see on a summer day a sky covered with cumulus clouds with their bases all at the same altitude; just so it appeared that only after a certain height had been reached did the elements which cause the aurora become visible. As the phenomenon is explained by its being a discharge of electricity in the rarified air of the upper regions, is it not possible that this electricity becomes luminous only after reaching a great altitude, just as water vapor becomes visible only after passing the dew point?

"The aurora of October 10 must have been very high, as some alto-cumulus clouds which were in the northwest appeared far below it."